

**REMARKS**

Claims 2-11 have been cancelled, and Claims 12-25 have been added. Thus, Claims 1 and 12-25 are currently pending in the present application, of which Claim 1 has been amended.

Support for the newly added claims can be found on page 8, lines 4-22 of the specification.

**Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102**

Claims 1-11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *McKeeman et al.* (US 5,754,860). Applicant respectfully traverses such rejection insofar as it might apply to the claims as amended herein.

Amended Claim 1 (and similarly Claims 16 and 21) now recites

repeatedly performing:

randomly selecting one of said segments;

requesting a particular one of said plurality of agents assigned said selected segment to change a parameter of said software application; and

after each of said plurality of agents has been requested at least once, adjusting segment size assigned to one or more of said plurality of agents according to a performance change in said software application associated with the parameter change initiated by each respective agent.

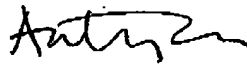
The claimed performing and adjusting steps are not taught or suggested by *McKeeman*. Because the claimed invention includes novel features that are not taught or suggested by *McKeeman*, the § 102 rejection is believed to be overcome.

**CONCLUSION**

Claims 1 and 12-25 are currently pending in the present application. For the reasons stated above, Applicant believes that independent Claims 1, 16 and 21 along with their dependent claims are in condition for allowance. The remaining prior art cited by the Examiner but not relied upon has been reviewed and is not believed to show or suggest the claimed invention.

No fee or extension of time is believed to be necessary; however, in the event that any addition fee or extension of time is required for the prosecution of the present application, please charge it against IBM Corporation Deposit Account No. 09-0465.

Respectfully submitted,



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